

Date

Michael J. Power  
City of Kenner  
1801 Williams Blvd  
Bldg C, Ste 100  
Kenner, LA 70062

**Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2014-1397**

Dear Mr. Power:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its January 16, 2015 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether Christopher Weddle, a part-time prosecutor for the City of Kenner may be an approved provider for the City's domestic violence pre-trial diversion program.

You stated that the City of Kenner employs licensed attorneys to prosecute violations of the City's Code of Ordinances, including domestic violence cases, in the City's Mayor's Court. The City has approved the utilization of anger management and mental health programs as part of its domestic violence pre-trial diversion program. The City's Clerk of Court approves providers, who must be certified in the Duluth Curriculum, for the program. The City's prosecutor assigned to the Domestic Violence Court determines whether to offer a particular defendant the opportunity to participate in the program. Participants may choose from any of the approved providers and are responsible for paying all necessary costs associated with the program directly to the provider.

Christopher Weddle is a part-time prosecutor employed with the City Attorney's office. However, he does not participate in the prosecution of domestic violence cases. Mr. Weddle, certified in the Duluth Curriculum, would like to be an approved provider for the City's domestic violence pre-trial diversion program.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Christopher Weddle from providing services to participants in the City's domestic violence pre-trial diversion program while he is employed as a prosecutor with the City Attorney's office. Section 1113A of the Code prohibits a public servant from bidding on or entering into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of his agency. While the City's Clerk of Court is responsible for approving providers and participants must pay all costs associated with the program, a prosecutor with the City Attorney's office still oversees participation in the program. Therefore, Mr. Weddle would be prohibited from providing services to participants in the City's domestic violence pre-trial diversion program while he is employed as a prosecutor with the City Attorney's office.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

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Vivian Haley Williams  
For the Board

DRAFT  
THIS IS NOT AN OPINION OF THE BOARD OF  
ETHICS